

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong proximate a tubular at a well center, comprising:
 - an extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;
 - an actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable structure relative to the well center; and
 - a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure, wherein the mounting assembly is coupled to a support member on a drilling rig tower.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the telescopically extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the telescopically extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the outer barrel is disposed on the carriage.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the tong is movably attached to the inner barrel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a clamp assembly for securing the outer barrel to the carriage.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the outer barrel is movable between a first position and a second position relative to the carriage.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable structure is disposed on the carriage.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable structure to the carriage.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the clamping assembly is releasably connected to the carriage.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor actuatable to adjust the position of the extendable structure with respect to said mounting assembly.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuating member comprises a piston and cylinder assembly.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable structure.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable structure horizontally.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tong is movably attached to the extendable structure.

25-49. Cancelled.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for positioning a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

an extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong capable of making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable structure;

a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable structure; and
a support beam for coupling the extendable structure to a drilling tower.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the tong is movably attached.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable structure is movable in at least two planes.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the extendable structure is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the extendable structure is movable in at least two planes.

56. Cancelled.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.

58-59. Cancelled.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable structure.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable structure.

62-69. Cancelled.

70. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular proximate a well center, comprising:

providing an apparatus for connecting the tubulars, the apparatus comprising:
a tong adapted to connect the tubulars; and
an extendable structure for positioning the tong;
positioning the apparatus on a drilling tower;
actuating the extendable structure to move the tong toward the well center;
engaging the first and second tubulars with the tong; and
connecting the first tubular to the second tubular.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising attaching a support member on the drilling tower.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising coupling the extendable structure to the support member.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein connecting the first tubular to the second tubular comprises rotating the first tubular relative to the second tubular.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly is clamped to the support member.

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly is selectively attached to the support member.

76. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for positioning a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

an extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong for making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable structure;

a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable structure; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure, wherein the mounting assembly is adapted to couple the extendable structure to a support beam disposed above a rig floor.

77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the support beam is selectively attached to a drilling tower.

78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the mounting assembly is clamped to the support beam.

79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the support beam is a convenient beam support.

80. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the support beam is located between 2 meters and 3 meters above the rig floor

81. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the tong is movably attached.

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

83. (Previously Presented) A method of positioning a tong to make up or break out tubulars, comprising:

- providing an extendable structure having a variable length;
- attaching the tong to the extendable structure;
- positioning the extendable structure on a drilling tower;
- moving the tong from a first position to a second position;
- engaging the tubulars with the tong; and
- one of making or breaking a connection of the tubulars.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein positioning the extendable structure on the drilling tower comprises coupling the extendable structure to a support member on the drilling tower.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, further comprising attaching a support member on the drilling tower, and coupling the extendable structure to the support member.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, further comprising providing a mounting assembly for coupling the extendable structure to the support member.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein moving the tong from the first position to the second position comprises varying the length of the extendable structure.

89. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising a mounting assembly for mounting the extendable structure to the support beam.

90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable structure is clamped to the support beam.

91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 90, wherein the extendable structure is clamped using at least one bolt.

92. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the support beam is disposed on the drilling tower.

Please add the following new claims:

93. (New) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the mounting assembly is coupled to the support beam such that the extendable structure can position the tong proximate a connection of the tubulars.